

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 6 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR, MOSCOW FOR AMB.
WARNKE

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1. CLARENCE ROBINSON, JR., OF AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE
TECHNOLOGY REPORTS THAT U.S. IS CONSIDERING MAKING PROPOSAL
TO SOVIET UNION LATER THIS MONTH THAT WOULD BAN TESTING
AND DEPLOYMENT OF SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES WITH
REDUCED FLIGHT TIME FOR THEIR NUCLEAR-ARMED REENTRY VE-
HICLES TO AVOID PREEMPTIVE FIRST STRIKE. ROBINSON, QUOTING
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SAID PRESIDENT CARTER FAVORS

OFFERING BAN IN MID-SEPTEMBER WHEN VANCE MEETS IN NEW YORK WITH GROMYKO TO CONTINUE SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS. ROBINSON POINTED OUT "U.S. RUNS RISK OF DELAYING FURTHER PROTRACTED SECOND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT BY INTRODUCING NEW ITEM FOR TREATY. SOME U.S. OFFICIALS BELIEVE THIS COULD STALL AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS." HE SAID CARTER PLAN IS TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT NOT TO USE SLBM'S WITH DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY FLIGHT PROFILE. ROBINSON EXPLAINED THAT DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY DESCRIBES REENTRY VEHICLE OPERATING AT LOW REENTRY ANGLE, USUALLY AROUND SIX DEGREES TO

HORIZON, TO SHORTEN ITS BALLISTIC FLIGHT PATH AND REDUCE WARNING TIME FOR DEFENSIVE RADAR SYSTEMS. ROBINSON SAID BAN ON DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY WAS PROPOSED TO PRESIDENT BY REPS. BOB CARR AND THOMAS DOWNEY IN RECENT WHITE HOUSE MEETING. IN RESPONSE, CARTER ORDERED THAT ISSUE BE STUDIED AND PROPOSAL PREPARED BY NSC'S SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE. ROBINSON SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BELIEVE U.S. AND USSR ARE NOT FAR ENOUGH ALONG IN DEVELOPMENT OF DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY WEAPONS TO PROVIDE EITHER SIDE WITH SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE IN TECHNOLOGY BY CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT, AND THUS TIME IS RIGHT FOR PROPOSING BAN. HE SAID OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD GO LONG WAY TOWARD STRATEGIC WEAPONS STABILITY BY REMOVING INCENTIVE FOR EITHER SIDE TO CONSIDER FIRST STRIKE WITH SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED BALLISTIC MISSILES AGAINST UNCLASSIFIED

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EITHER BOMBER BASES OR ICBM SILOS. SHORTER WARNING TIME WITH DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY WOULD MAKE U.S. BOMBER FORCE VULNERABLE TO FIRST STRIKE, ROBINSON NOTED. SOVIET UNION RELIES MORE HEAVILY ON GROUND-BASED SYSTEMS, AND AS ACCURACY IMPROVES IN DEPRESSED TRAJECTORY SYSTEM, ICBM SILOS BECOME VULNERABLE NOT ONLY TO FIRST STRIKE, BUT ALSO TO HARD TARGET KILL CAPABILITY AS WELL, ROBINSON SAID. ROBINSON SAID U.S. HAS TESTED MINUTEMAN ICBM AS WELL, ROBINSON SAID. ROBINSON SAID U.S. HAS TESTED MINUTEMAN ICBM IN FLIGHT PROFILES THAT SHAVE AS MUCH AS SIX DEGREES OFF NORMAL REENTRY ANGLE (22-24 DEGREES) BY USING MK 11 REENTRY VEHICLE. SOVIETS, HE SAID, HAVE TESTED THEIR ICBM'S AND SLBM'S WITH SOME REDUCTION IN REENTRY ANGLE, BUT NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE FIRST STRIKE CAPABILITY.

2. NEWSWEEK REPORTED THAT WHITE HOUSE IS SENDING TOP U.S. SALT NEGOTIATOR PAUL WARNEKE ON SECRET MISSION TO MOSCOW THIS WEEK TO PREPARE GROUND FOR NEW ROUND OF MEETINGS IN U.S. BETWEEN VANCE AND GROMYKO. "SUDDEN TRIP IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT ONE: SOURCES SAY THAT JIMMY CARTER CONSIDERED ASSIGNING IT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI INSTEAD OF WARNKE," NEWSWEEK SAID.

3. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO OFFER REPUBLIC OF CHINA 60 NEW F5 FIGHTER PLANES MORE LETHAL THAN PRESENT-DAY VERSIONS BUT NOT LONG-RANGED ENOUGH TO THREATEN COMMUNIST CHINA. F5G COULD BE READY BY 1984, AND WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT RATHER THAN BOMBING, F5G CAN BE PORTRAYED BY ADMINISTRATION AS DEFENSIVE WEAPON RATHER THAN OFFENSIVE WEAPON OF CONCERN TO COMMUNIST CHINA. WILSON SAID INTERNAL PENTAGON MEMO CONCEDES THAT PROPOSED F5G SALE MAY DRAW PROTESTS FROM THOSE WHO CONTEND IT WOULD VIOLATE PRESIDENT'S GUIDELINES AGAINST DEVELOPING WEAPONS

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EXPRESSLY FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, BUT ADMINISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO ARGUE THAT THIS NORTHROP F5G FOR TAIWAN IS AN UPDATE OF EXISTING F5 THAT HAS BEEN SOLD AROUND WORLD. WILSON SAID PRESIDENT HAS NOT FORMALLY APPROVED THIS SALE, BUT "'THERE'S GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS ONE,' SAID ONE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL YESTERDAY IN STATING THAT LEADERS AT STATE, PENTAGON AND WHITE HOUSE HAVE RECENTLY AGREED THAT NORTHROP F5G OFFERS BEST HOPE OF SATISFYING TAIWAN WITHOUT ALARMING PEKING." WILSON SAID ONE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE OF F5G SALE TO TAIWAN WOULD BE PRESSURE TO SELL SAME PLANE TO OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO RECOVER NORTHROP'S COSTS IN TAILORING PRESENT F5 TO TAIWAN'S NEEDS. ONE INDUSTRY ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WOULD TAKE 300 TO 500 SALES OF F5G TO RECOVER THESE DEVELOPMENT COSTS, WILSON REPORTED.

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